

Appl. No. 10/747,718
Response dated December 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 7, 2006

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REMARKS

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated August 7, 2006. In the Office Action, Claims 13-25, 30 and 44-70 were examined and rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, as being obvious under 35 USC 103(a) based on Allison et al (US 6,946,114) (hereafter "Allison"). This response has been filed in the effort to obtain allowance for the above reference patent application over the rejection contained in the Office Action.

Status of the Claims

By this response, Applicants have canceled Claim 56 and revised Claim 59 to be an independent Claim including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (of which there were none). In the previous amendment filed in response to the Restriction requirement, Claims 1-12, 27-29 & 31-43 had been canceled and Claim 30 was amended to depend from Claim 13. Claims 44-70 were also added at that time.

As a result, Claims 13-25, 30, 44-55, and 57-70 are currently pending.

Claims 13 and 59 have been amended, but include the same subject matter as previously presented Claims 56 and 59.

Prior Art Rejection

The rejection of the claims in the Office Action is based on a commonly owned patent to Allison and the assertion that the differences between the Allison disclosure and the present invention are inherent. Applicants have focused the claims of the present invention on subject matter which is clearly not disclosed in Allison. The subject matter in the broadest claims are substantive and it is unreasonable to maintain any assertion that the claimed invention would be inherent in Allison. Specifically, Claim 13 now includes the requirement of a substantially blocked micropore layer between the outer region and the center of the core. There is nothing in the disclosure of Allison to suggest the existence of such an element in the invention thereof or that it is inherent. Adding such a layer to the catalyst is not an inconsequential consideration and is certainly not taught or suggested by the art.

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In Claim 59, there is the requirement that the core is nonmicroporous. Again, there is nothing in the disclosure of Allison to point to that would render the claims unpatentable. There is nothing in Allison to suggest that the core being nonmicroporous would be inherent. This is a real and substantive difference.

While Applicants believe that the other claims provide basis for allowability, Applicants have focused on the amended claims as they appear to be so clearly allowable over the art of record.

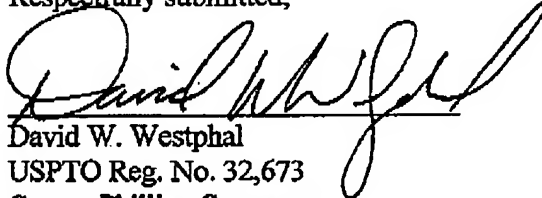
Conclusion

Applicants believe that they have fully responded to the Office Action dated August 7, 2006. Applicants further believe that no new matter was added by way of amendments to the specification, amendments to original claims, and addition of new claims.

If resolution of any remaining issues pertaining to restriction groups and election may be facilitated by a telephone conference, or if the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be advantageous, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (580) 767-4958.

If any fees should have been inadvertently omitted, or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, or in the event that an additional extension of time is necessary in order for this submission to be considered timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to appropriately charge or credit those fees to Deposit Account Number 16-1575 of ConocoPhillips Company, Houston, Texas and consider this a petition for any necessary extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Westphal
USPTO Reg. No. 32,673
ConocoPhillips Company
Post Office Box 1267
1000 South Pine Street
Ponca City, Oklahoma 74602-1267
(580) 767-4958
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

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